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### Concerts bring area's top pianists to the stage

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Oct. 3, 2008

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### **CONCERTS BRING AREA'S TOP PIANISTS TO THE STAGE**

#### **MISSOULA—**

The University of Montana music department will present "Pianissimo!" – two gala concerts performed by some of Missoula's most prominent and distinguished pianists – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17-18.

The performances feature a wide variety of works and styles for solo piano, harpsichord, fortepiano, piano duet, two pianos, multiple piano works and more.

The concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in UM's Music Recital Hall. Each night's concert will feature different repertoire and performers. Tickets are \$15 for a single concert and \$25 for both performances. They can be purchased at the door or by calling the UM music department at 243-6880.

In addition to UM faculty members Steven Hesla, Christopher Hahn and Nancy Cooper, featured performers will include Margery Whatley playing Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue"; Lucien Hut and Katherine Skinner; Molly Morrison; Dorothy Peterson and Diana Pacini Bauer; Barbara Blegen; Scott Billadeau, owner of Liquid Planet and former UM music faculty member, who will perform original works; and Jane Micklus, with a selection of jazz standards. The concerts also include performances by UM piano students.

Missoula author Perri Knize will read from her new book, "Grand Obsession." A



reception by Liquid Planet will follow the Saturday night concert.

“Pianissimo!” is a fundraiser to help UM piano students and the UM Keyboard Society attend conferences, fund performance travel, sponsor events such as the annual Keyboard Festival and bring in guest artists. Proceeds also will help with much-needed maintenance and care for UM’s pianos to provide instruments that will attract the best students now and in the future to the University’s music programs.

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